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Morris and partners to present unique renewable energy curriculum at showcase event

Summary: The MNREM Energy Showcase forum focuses on energy issues and strategies.

(June 10, 2010)-The University of Minnesota, Morris will present at the Minnesota Renewable Energy Marketplace (MNREM) Renewable Energy Showcase on Monday, June 14, 2010, at the Minnesota History Center in St. Paul. The full-day forum will focus on energy issues and strategies, and serve as a showcase for 28 projects, including a Morris project, funded through MNREM with United States Department of Labor Workforce Innovation in Regional Economic Development (WIRED) grants.

Morris Continuing Education received an initial MNREM-WIRED grant of \$174,258 to develop and deliver biomass gasification technology curriculum in 2009. This year, an additional \$95,050 grant provided funding to expand curriculum and to deliver 2010 courses.

“Morris and its partners have a lot to celebrate,” says Troy Goodnough, sustainability coordinator. “We accomplished a lot with our MNREM-WIRED grant. In 2010, 40 people had access to renewable energy education through a one-week course for industry and a three-week course through May session. Participants received a unique hands-on education in biomass gasification, gasification theory, science, and economics. We received excellent feedback from participants. We are glad we were able to offer this type of education to students, workers, and entrepreneurs in our region.”

Morris delivered the two MNREM supported courses in partnership with University of Minnesota West Central Research and Outreach Center, USDA North Central Soil Conservation Research Lab, Rural Minnesota Concentrated Employment Program, Minnesota West Community and Technical College, and Alexandria Technical College. Course content was developed in consultation with Nova-Tech Engineering and Hammel, Green and Abrahamson, Inc.—Architects and Engineers.

MNREM is one of thirty-nine regional projects throughout the nation funded through the WIRED Initiative with a goal to achieve long-term sustainable economic vitality and the ability to compete in a global economy through the attraction, creation, and retention of an educated and skilled workforce.

For more information about the MNREM Showcase or about renewable energy initiatives at the University of Minnesota, Morris, contact Goodnough at good0044@morris.umn.edu or 320-589-6303.

This workforce solution was funded by a grant awarded under Workforce Innovation in Regional Economic Development (WIRED) as implemented by the U.S. Department of Labor’s Employment and Training Administration. The solution was created by the grantee and does not necessarily reflect the official position of the U.S. Department of Labor. The Department of Labor makes no guarantees, warranties, or assurances of any kind, express or implied, with respect to such information, including any information on linked sites and including, but not limited to, accuracy of the information or its completeness, timeliness, usefulness, adequacy, continued availability, or ownership. This solution is copyrighted by the institution that created it. Internal use by an organization and/or personal use by an individual for

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Through personal and academic discovery, the University of Minnesota, Morris provides opportunities for students to grow intellectually, engage in community, experience environmental stewardship and celebrate diversity. A renewable and sustainable educational experience, Morris prepares graduates for careers, for advanced degrees, for lifelong learning, for work world flexibility in the future, and for global citizenship. Learn more about Morris at morris.umn.edu or call 888-866-3382.